

Letter from Alexander Melville Bell to Alexander Graham Bell, July 1, 1878

Tutelo Heights, Brantford, Ont., Can., July 1st, 78. (Prof. A. Graham Bell, 57 West Cromwell Road, South Kensington, London, S.W., England.) My dear Al.,

I think our wire is satisfactorily grounded; it is sunk in the well at Mr. Henderson's and twisted round the lightning conductor here. On the same occasion when our poles were split, some of the near telegraph poles were also struck, and I am told that the telegraph poles are frequently damaged in the same way. Yet telegraph lines are always I suppose, well connected with the ground. When I apprehend danger from a storm, I put the magneto-call-pin in the lighting arrister. I had done so only about five minutes before the stroke. This no doubt secured the telephones from injury. The American Speaking Telephone Co. are working against us through the Montreal Telegraph Co. This compels me to enter into law proceedings which I would have gladly avoided. Mr. Dwight avows that they simply ignore the Bell Patents, on what ground will I suppose be brought out in Court. The A. S. T. Co. have I understand, assigned \$5,000. to the Montreal Tel. Co. for the purpose of defending any actions that may be brought. I have written to Mr. Hubbard to ascertain what steps have 2 been taken against the A. S. T. Co. in the States but I have not yet received, the information. I shall be glad to hear in your next that you have seen worthy John Elphinstone, also that you have completed arrangements for the sale of the houses to Mr. Fluker. We are in the midst of a hot spell just now, and Mamma, who never perspired before, is melting like the rest of us. Kind regards to Mrs. Hubbard and the young ladies, with best wishes to Gertrude, and loving congratulations to you and Mabel on your first year and its fruits! A kiss to Elsie from her,

Affectionate grandfather, Alexander Melville Bell.